

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

MONDAY 27 JANUARY 2020
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 8.31pm.

Present:

The Speaker (Chairperson)
Ms K Armstrong
Ms C Bailey
Mr K Buchanan
Ms S Ennis
Ms D Kelly
Mr C McGrath
Mr J O'Dowd
Mr G Robinson
Mr J Stewart

In attendance:

Dr A McGarel	Clerk of Business
Mr P Gill	Clerk Assistant
Dr G McGrath	Director of Parliamentary Services
Ms T Caul	Director of Legal, Governance & Research Services
Mr R Ramsey	Adviser to the Speaker
Ms P Devlin	Assistant Assembly Clerk
Mr M O'Hare	Clerical Supervisor

Observers:

Ms K Morrison Executive Office

1 Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from Mr Robbie Butler and Mr Andrew Muir.

2 **Minutes of previous meetings**

- 2.1 The minutes of the afternoon meeting on 20 January 2020 were agreed.

3 **Matters Arising**

- 3.1 The Speaker recorded his thanks to the Party Whips for their assistance to officials in facilitating the rescheduling of business for the sitting on 27 January 2020.
- 3.2 Mrs Kelly recorded her thanks to the Speaker for the way in which the Assembly was able to pay tribute to former deputy First Minister, Séamus Mallon and for attending his funeral.

4 **Order Paper for plenary meeting on 3 February 2020**

Assembly Business

- 4.1 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion tabled by the Assembly Commission to appoint an acting Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman. Mrs Kelly indicated that she would be proposing the motion on behalf of the Commission.
- 4.2 Members **agreed** that 30 minutes would be allowed for the debate, with 10 minutes being allowed to propose and wind and five minutes for all other speakers.
- 4.3 Members **noted** that, as previously agreed, four Ministers would respond to Oral Questions on 3 February at 2pm.

Private Members' Business

- 4.4 Members **agreed** to reschedule the Private Members' Business which had been scheduled for 27 January but had been deferred to facilitate tributes to the former deputy First Minister, Séamus Mallon as follows:
- Motion: Autism Training in Schools (DUP)
 - Motion: Climate Emergency (SF)
- 4.5 Officials from the Executive Office confirmed that Ministers would be available to respond to these motions.

- 4.6 Members **noted** that previous Speakers had ruled that where an amendment is published on the marshalled list and the motion is subsequently postponed, the amendment will carry forward to the marshalled list for the day on which the motion is rescheduled.
- 4.7 Members **noted** that Speaker's rulings also permit further amendments to be proposed up to the normal deadline.
- 4.8 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for 3 February 2020.

5 **Provisional arrangements for plenary meetings in the week commencing 10 February.**

- 5.1 Members **noted** that there was no Executive Business listed for 10 February in the notice of forthcoming business from the Executive Office.
- 5.2 Members **agreed** that only one sitting would be held in the week commencing 10 February to facilitate the work of Assembly committees. Members sought, and were given, an update on progress with outstanding committee business.
- 5.3 Members **noted** that Question Time would again have four Ministers taking oral questions as follows:
- Education
 - Finance
 - Health
 - Infrastructure
- 5.4 Members **agreed** to schedule Private Members Business, and noted that in accordance with their agreement on 14 January, the next selections would go to the DUP and Sinn Féin.
- 5.5 The following Private Members' motions were selected:
- Abuse of Service Animals (DUP)
 - NICE Guidance on Fertility (SF)
- 5.6 Executive Office officials confirmed Ministerial availability to respond to these motions.
- 5.7 Members agreed the Provisional Order Paper for 10 February 2020.

6 **Any other business**

- 6.1 A query was raised which related to matters under the consideration of the Assembly Commission. The Speaker advised that a meeting of the Commission was being arranged at which the issue could be discussed more fully.

7 **Date and time of next meeting**

- 7.1 Members **agreed** that the next meeting would take place after the adjournment of the sitting on Monday 3 February in Room 106.

The Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 8.44pm

The Speaker
Chairperson